

Is Heaven by Grace? Or Belief?

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I. An apparent contradiction between back to back verses

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

A. Is heaven for those God gave to Jesus? Or for those who believe in Jesus?

- Most who believe in belief to heaven ignore the first
- Most who believe in grace to heaven ignore the second

B. Some combine the two by saying God will arrange for the chosen to believe

- This does not explain Old Testament saints, babies, mentally challenged, Aztecs
- This does not explain how much believed “truth” is enough believed truth
- This makes preachers and believers robots

C. What does it matter?

- I have been accused of making it all too complicated. Why not just keep it simple?
- My whole job description hinges on which is true
- The whole focus of church hinges on which is true

1. It matters because of the souls of men

- If heaven is by belief—But I don't believe it—Men's souls lose rest for eternity
- If heaven is by grace—But I don't believe it—Men's souls lose rest for now
- Some counter that preaching belief is safer—Just in case

—Some counter that preaching belief is safer—Because of popularity

2. It matters for Jesus' glory

- If heaven is by belief—But I don't believe it—I disgrace Jesus in what I preach
- If heaven is by grace—But I don't believe it—I disgrace Jesus in what I preach
- Jesus is truth—Satan is the lying deceiver
- Truth honors Jesus—Lies disgrace Jesus

3. It matters because the truth will make you free

D. The context

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Joh 6:42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

Joh 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Joh 6:46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

Joh 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

III. An attempt to group and connect related verses

A. Verses that speak of everlasting life

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should **raise it up again at the last day**.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have **everlasting life**: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and **I will raise him up at the last day**.

Joh 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath **everlasting life**.

B. Verses that speak of coming to Jesus

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall **come** to me; and him that **cometh** to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:44 No man can **come** to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, **cometh** unto me.

C. Verses that speak of believing on Jesus

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and **believeth** on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **believeth** on me hath everlasting life.

D. Verses that don't mention and even deny any necessity for required belief in Jesus

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

IV. All must be true—Yet how can they be?

A. If belief is necessary so grace can be grace—The passage is in irresolvable conflict

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me...

Joh 6:39 ...of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing...

Joh 6:40 ...every one which...believeth on him, may have everlasting life...

Joh 6:47 ...He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

B. If belief is necessary so grace can be grace—The Bible is in irresolvable conflict

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Rom 9:16 ...*it is* not of him that willeth...but of God that sheweth mercy.

C. What if salvation is all of grace—And belief gives the experience & evidence of it

V. A similar conflict in another passage

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

A. Jesus laid out to Nicodemus an irresolvable situation

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

B. Jesus compounded the problem by showing the necessity of -born again'

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

C. Jesus resolved the difficulty of being born again by teaching that God does it

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

D. The answer screams the question— “Has God done it for me?”

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

E. The idea that John 3:16 is an invitation is in irresolvable conflict with the passage

F. The idea that belief is evidence of born again agrees with the passage

VI. The idea that salvation is all by grace agrees with lots of other passages

A. Jesus' teachings about a certain salvation that is all by God and grace

Joh 10:24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

Joh 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 I and *my* Father are one.

B. Paul's teachings about certain salvation that is all by God and grace

2Ti 1:8 ...the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

VII. If salvation is all of grace & belief is the evidence—Then both can be seen as true

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.